

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-24 in the application. Previously, the Applicants amended Claims 1-9, 17 and 23. In the present response, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 to place them in condition for allowance. More specifically, the Applicants have amended these independent Claims with subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Additionally, the Applicants have cancelled Claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. No other claims have been amended, canceled or added in this response. Accordingly, Claims 1-22 and 24 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In order to expedite issuance, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 with allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections of independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 and Claims dependent thereon and issue allowance of Claims 1-22 and 24.

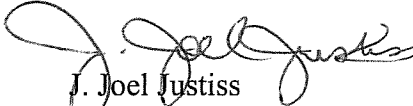
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-22 and 24.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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